

160 Elm Street
Greenfield, MA 01301

January 18, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

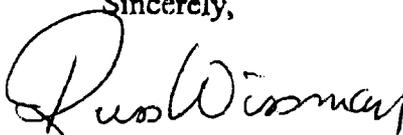
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

The more I read about the recent developments in the Microsoft settlement, the more I get annoyed that it is being further scrutinized. After three years of negotiating, it is clear that this settlement was part of a well thought out process that yielded a fair and reasonable agreement. It is time to support this and get back to business.

As our economy continues to falter, it seems more and more imperative to support our technology industry. Microsoft has obviously done so by working hard to get the IT sector back on track. By making changes in licensing, marketing and even design, Microsoft has taken a bold step toward uniting our IT sector. Also, as an anti-trust settlement first, Microsoft has agreed to disclose various interfaces that are internal to Windows' operating system products. All of this will be monitored by a committee to ensure that Microsoft follows procedure. If these concessions are not a clear signal of cooperation, I do not know what is.

I urge you to help support this more than fair agreement, by making sure that no more actions are taken against it. It is time to support our IT sector and get them back to focusing on innovation and not litigation.

Sincerely,



RussWissman